

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**

August 3, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Catherine Peek McEwen to be Appointed United States Bankruptcy Judge

The United States Bankruptcy Judges for the Middle District of Florida are pleased to announce the decision by the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit to appoint Catherine Peek McEwen as a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle District of Florida. She will begin service on August 22, 2005, in the Tampa Division of this Court.

Ms. McEwen, 49, comes to the bench after almost 23 years of private practice in Tampa. Most recently she has been a solo practitioner in Tampa. Before opening her own practice, she was a shareholder of Akerman, Senterfitt & Eidson, P.A., formerly known as Moffitt, Hart & Herron, P.A. in Tampa, where she practiced law from 1982-2001 in the statewide firm's Tampa office. She has concentrated her practice in commercial litigation with an emphasis on representing parties in bankruptcy cases. Numerous reported state and federal court opinions concern matters she handled.

Her undergraduate degree is a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of South Florida, and she received her J.D. degree *cum laude* from Stetson University College of Law in 1982.

Ms. McEwen is admitted to The Florida Bar and the bars of the United States Supreme Court, the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida. She is a past Chair and President of the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association, a court-appointed mediator for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida (since 1989), and an active member of The Florida Bar's Business Law Section and Federal Court Practice Committee. She also served as chair of a Florida Bar Grievance Committee. She is rated "AV," the top rating given by lawyer rating service Martindale-Hubbell, Inc.

She has lectured and written frequently on bankruptcy, collection, and foreclosure topics.

While in law school, Ms. McEwen received the Cecil and Augusta Bailey Scholarship Award for Stetson's outstanding female graduate as chosen by the faculty, won the Freshmen Moot Court Outstanding Advocate Award for the outstanding participant in both oral advocacy and brief writing, and was awarded American Jurisprudence 2d "Book" Awards in four substantive law subjects and a Harrison-Sapp "Book" Award for research and writing, signifying the top grade in each class.

Prior to becoming a lawyer, she was a sports writer from 1975-1979 for *The Tampa Tribune* and *The Tampa Times* and won an award for sports features from the Florida Sports Writers Association in its annual statewide writing contest for newspapers within the daily circulation category of *The Tampa Times*.

In her spare time she plays duplicate bridge, manages a developmental age Little League softball team, and teaches Sunday school.

She is the oldest of six children of Scott I. and Lillian Peek, formerly of Tampa and now of Wesley Chapel.

"I am humbled and honored that the Circuit Court has chosen me to fill a role that so significantly affects the lives of people and businesses struggling to survive financially," said Ms. McEwen. "This job brings on a tremendous responsibility, especially given that the first time so many Americans see the legal system up close is in bankruptcy court. My goal is to ensure that all participants will go away -- win or lose -- feeling that they really did get their day in court and were treated with dignity and respect."